



# Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

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Issue 115



**An easy-to-use plan for a Children's Meeting**

*Make sure you have a little time of worship for yourself and other volunteers before the session – even a few minutes is good. The outline is based on a 45 minute children's meeting.*

Resources needed: a large ball of coloured string or wool; coloured pens or pencils; a set of 'refugee portraits' (*additional resource 115.A*) cut into separate cards. Optional: chalks, paper for drawing; lining paper. Ingredients for Barazek biscuits.

## **Gather**

Begin by sitting or standing in a circle, ideally with a large ball of string or thread/wool. The idea is to create a 'web of connection' between one another, recognising what we have in common. The person holding the ball of thread says something about themselves – I have brown eyes; I like swimming; my favourite food is... – and others in the group raise their hand if they have this in common. The one holding the thread then passes/rolls/throws it to someone who has raised their hand, keeping hold of the end of the thread, so there is a line of connection between them. This person now says something about themselves, and so it goes on until there is a web of thread/lines criss-crossing the circle, linking everyone together.

**10 minutes**

## **Engage**

Give out the cards from *additional resource 115.A* and coloured pens/pencils. Ask the children to imagine that the child on their card has come to their school or moved into their street. Ask them to draw a picture of what that child might look like next to the words.

Ask the children to think and talk about what they might have in common with the children on the cards, and also what they don't have in common. Encourage the children to wonder what it might be like to leave here and travel to another part of the world.

**10 minutes**

## **Respond**

Make, or have made already the dough for Barazek - Middle-Eastern sesame biscuits. Cut these out and bake. Serve with fresh mint tea to share at the end of meeting.

**20 minutes**

## **Reflect**

Sitting quietly in a circle, ask the children for their thoughts and responses on the session.

Can they find hopeful things that have come out of the dark experiences of refugee children and families?

What can we do as individuals to help people feel welcome?

What can we do with others?

Who thinks that getting to know other people helps us get to know ourselves better too?

Talk about how we will find things we have in common with people, but also all kinds of new and different and interesting things too.

**5 minutes**